

**REMARKS**

***Status of the claims***

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the instant application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Of these, claims 1 and 13 are independent. Claims 1-11 are amended. New claims 12-24 are added. Applicants respectfully submit that these changes introduce no new matter. Entry and consideration of this amendment are respectfully requested.

***Objections to the Abstract***

The Abstract is objected to for improper format and language. Applicants have amended the Abstract to place it in appropriate format and request that this objection be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112***

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for allegedly being indefinite. Applicants assert that any potential indefiniteness has been removed by the above amendments to these claims.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claims 1-2 and 4-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,490,049 to Montalan et al. (hereinafter Montalan). Independent claim 1 is directed to an indicator lamp for a motor vehicle. This indicator lamp includes a plurality of linking elements, a plurality of first elements, and a second element. As recited in claim 1, the first elements, the second element, and the linking elements are made together of the same material and form a one-piece optical structure.

In contrast, Montalan (e.g., at column 5, lines 53-67) discloses an indicator lamp in which an outer plate 500 formed with Fresnel lenses 502 and a cover 200 formed with beads 201 and linking elements formed by a base 100. This indicates that the indicator lamp of Montalan are formed by three different components.

For at least the reasons set forth above, claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over Montalan. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103***

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Montalan in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,012,831 to Maekawa (hereinafter Maekawa). Claim 3 depends from independent claim 1 and recites a stiffening rib feature. The Examiner alleges that this feature is suggested by Maekawa. Notwithstanding the merits of this allegation, Maekawa fails to overcome the aforementioned deficiencies of Montalan. Accordingly, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

***New Claims***

New claim 13 depends from independent claim 1. New claims 14-23 recite features similar to those recited in claims 1-12. Accordingly, and is patentable over the applied references for at least the reasons stated above.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed accommodated or rendered moot. Thus, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and as such, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, and allowance of this application.

**AUTHORIZATION**

A check in the amount of \$72.00 is enclosed for covering the fees for four extra claims in excess of twenty claims in total. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for the timely consideration of this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.111, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1948-4757.

Respectfully submitted,  
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By: John A. Harroun  
John A. Harroun  
Registration No. 46,339  
(202) 857-7887 Telephone  
(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

**Correspondence Address:**

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.  
345 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10154-0053